

Volume 1

Issue 2

July 2001

Connections

Integrated resource management newsletter

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AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT

ISSN 1499-1241

Cooperative approach to development saves money and the environment

Al-Pac-Gulf Land Management Program

Competing land use needs, cumulative effects on Alberta's boreal forest, and a vision to minimize environmental impacts have led to a cooperative approach to forestry and energy projects in northeastern Alberta.

Together Alberta Pacific Forest Industries (Al-Pac) and Gulf Canada developed an integrated land management program to reduce the footprint of the two resource users on Alberta's boreal forest area.

Gulf is developing the heavy oil resources at Surmount, about 70 km southeast of Fort McMurray and Al-Pac has the logging rights. The companies agreed that through planning road access and forest regeneration jointly, they can significantly improve the regeneration of the forest and reduce effects on wildlife while saving money.

In 1998 Gulf learned about Al-Pac's activity in the area of the Surmount project. "We paid them a visit and shared our plans. We quickly realized there was an obvious opportunity to look more closely at the potential for jointly planning road access and use in the area, because of the overlap both in terms of location and timing," said Peter Koning, Gulf's Senior Regulatory Coordinator. Koning is now seconded to the Alberta Chamber of Resources to apply the same principles more broadly as the Chamber's Integrated Landscape Program Manager.

Gulf's lease for the Surmount project is in the middle of one of Al-Pac's timber supplies. Al-Pac needed roads for getting the trees out, and Gulf needed well site access roads. Elsewhere, uncoordinated industrial activities have increased the amount of non-productive land and resulted in the destruction of useable timber in the boreal forest.

When both parties laid out their road maps they quickly discovered the kind of synergy that could occur with joint planning – namely, 50 per cent fewer roads. By working together, Al-Pac redesigned its harvest plans, adjusting the timing to allow Al-Pac to harvest before Gulf developed an access network. The results of this joint integrated land management plan are clear - reduced ecosystem fragmentation and lower construction and operational costs.

The new plan shows a number of advantages to both companies. Well pad reclamation will be in-synch with surrounding cutblock revegetation, providing less fragmentation for harvest of the next rotation. Harvest operations are not impeded by above ground pipelines. And there are benefits to wildlife with reduced fragmentation.

Gulf and Al-Pac can potentially save more than \$1 million in road construction costs alone, for one 25,000 barrel per day facility, says Koning.

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The northern boreal forest accounts for about one third of the earth's forest area. In Canada, the boreal forest forms a continuous belt from Newfoundland and the Labrador coast westward to the Rocky Mountains and northwestward to Alaska.

Sierra Club

Quotable Quote

The balance between the environment and development offers opportunities and challenges. People are concerned about how to balance growth with the need to protect and sustain the environment. Albertans share those concerns with others around the world. Economic growth is important, but it has to go hand in hand with sustaining the environment. Get Ready Alberta: Strengthening the Alberta Advantage - Government of Alberta Economic Strategy, released February 8, 2000

Al-Pac-Gulf Land Management Program contd.

Currently Al-Pac has partially completed the first pass of a three-pass harvest operation.

According to Koning, overlapping resource tenure and multiple approval and regulatory processes for many different activities associated with using Alberta's resources has "made it challenging to manage it in a way that preserves the values all Albertans have come to enjoy. Clean air, clean water, wildlife, sustainable forests, a healthy economy, and employment. Our ability to be successful relies heavily on the creation and delivery of consolidated resource management."

With the projected growth in industrial activity, the consequences of inaction are immense. Koning says the consequences include:

- increased land use conflict
- deterioration of ecosystem health
- increased regulatory control and prescription
- limitations to resource access
- increased costs

Koning is a strong advocate of coordination between and among industries. He says integration of industrial activities is a key instrument in minimizing the environmental impact of industry activities in terms of size, duration, and intensity.

Alberta Chamber of Resources Launches \$4.5 million I L M Program

With a vision of sustainable landscapes and economically viable industries through the careful integration of activities, the Alberta Chamber of Resources (ACR) has allocated \$4.5 million to an Integrated Landscape Management program (ILM). ACR is targeting a 15 per cent reduction in the projected industrial footprint in Alberta, though a cooperative, industry-led program that is expected to fundamentally change the way that industry operates on the land base.

Peter Koning, ILM Program Manager, will lead the initiative, under the direction of a steering committee comprised of:

- David Luff – CAPP; Chair
- Roger Palmer – Alberta Environment
- Ken Smith – Alberta Energy
- Bob Fessenden – Alberta Sustainable Resource Development
- Bill Hunter – Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries
- Jim Carter – Syncrude Canada Ltd.
- Dr. Stan Boutin – University of Alberta
- Denis Gaspé – Fording Coal
- Art Meyer – Enbridge Pipelines
- Mike Boyle – Canadian Association of Geophysical Contractors
- George Sinclair – PetroCanada
- Vic Walls – Border Paving
- Brad Anderson - ACR
- Peter Koning – ACR

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\$4.5 million ILM Program contd.

"Our first commitment is to collaboration," said Koning. "By bringing different resource industries to the table, we can plan development together, share infrastructure, learn about best practices and minimize our cumulative impacts."

The ILM program will be delivered through a five-year business plan, which will be renewed annually. The ILM program's aim is to coordinate resource development to create the smallest and softest footprint possible on the land base while generating economic efficiencies and cost savings for industry partners. The program is based on the premises that activities are inter-related and the maintenance of functioning ecosystems requires user coordination on a landscape level.

"Unprecedented growth in Alberta's natural resource industries has led to cross sector and public concern over the cumulative effects in the environment. With \$30 billion worth of new energy investments projected for northern Alberta over the next 20 years, the impacts of these projects and associated infrastructure requires identification and coordination of specific activities," says Bill Hunter, President of ACR and the driving force behind the ILM initiative. "We have an

enormous opportunity and still have the flexibility to do things properly before it becomes too late, so showing a proactive approach by the members of the Alberta Chamber of Resources is absolutely critical."

The major components of the program are collaboration, research, and best practices. The program's industry-government steering committee brings together different resource industries to share expertise and to plan development and infrastructure. In the area of research, the Chamber is a partner in funding a five-year Senior Industrial Research Chair in Integrated Landscape Management at the University of Alberta. See the Update section of this newsletter for more about this initiative. The program will also identify easy-to-achieve early successes with substantial impact on operating costs and on the ecology of Northern Alberta. One example is further development of the Al-Pac/Gulf-Surmount pilot project, described on the first page of this newsletter.

ACR is dedicated to the orderly development of all of Alberta's resources. The organization has 160 member corporations representing industrial activity and the service and supply sectors related to: coal, oil sands, oil and gas, petro chemicals, pipeline, forestry, metallic

minerals, industrial minerals, utilities, banks, equipment suppliers, transportation systems and service providers. For more information, contact Peter Koning, ILM Program Manager, Alberta Chamber of Resources at (403) 233-3595.

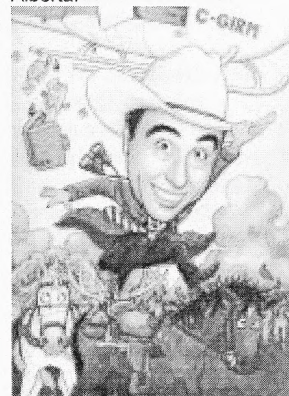
Updates Executive Director of IRM Division Retires

Dennis Quintilio, Executive Director of Alberta Environment's Integrated Resource Management Division since 1999, has retired.

Dennis worked as a fire behavior specialist in Alberta for 24 years, prior to assuming management positions. From 1967-1974 he was stationed at the Northern Forestry Research Centre as study leader and worked on early design and implementation of the Canadian Forest Fire Danger Rating System. He was appointed project leader in 1975 and continued to refine fire behavior prediction elements of the system through study of large-scale experimental burns. From 1980 to 1990 he taught at the Environmental Training Centre, which offers a two-year diploma program in Forestry, and coordinated all in-service fire management

training. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Dennis was also a practicing Fire Behavior Officer and served on the Alberta Forest Service fire investigation team.

Dennis became Director of the Environmental Training Centre in the fall of 1990. Five years later he assumed the position of Executive Director, Forest Management Division and in 1999 was named to head up the new division responsible for implementation of IRM in Alberta.



This illustration was developed in celebration of Dennis' career.

Dennis has B.ScF. and M.Sc. degree from the University of Montana and is a member of the Alberta Registered professional Foresters Association. A bibliography of approximately 25 publications is available upon request. For more information, contact Shelly Perreault at (780) 422-0006 or by e-mail at shelly.perrault@gov.ab.ca.

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Operational Integration

Chungo Creek – Blackstone – Wapiabi

Alberta Environment, Alberta Energy, and Alberta Sustainable Resource Development are working with the Energy and Utilities Board and the Alberta Chamber of Resources to determine the scope, approach, and timelines for a review of land uses in the Chungo Creek – Blackstone – Wapiabi area. The Macleod Institute for Environmental Analysis has conducted preliminary scoping interviews with representatives from the communities, First Nations, industry, recreational user groups, and environmental non-government organizations. The next step is the design of a consultation process. For more information, contact John Shires, Alberta Environment at (780) 427-4969 or by e-mail at john.shires@gov.ab.ca

Industry, Government and the University of Alberta partner to create a \$2.5 million research chair in Integrated Landscape Management

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), Alberta-Pacific Forest Industries Inc. (Al-Pac), the petroleum industry, the Alberta government and the

University of Alberta's Faculty of Science have funded a five-year Senior Industrial Research Chair in Integrated Landscape Management. "It's obvious to me that with the partners we have on this project, there is a real desire to seek the appropriate balance between the protection of the environment and productive use of our land," said Alberta Environment Minister Lorne Taylor.

University of Alberta biological sciences professor Stan Boutin will hold the chair. "Working directly with industry has helped me understand both sides of the issue rather than simply approaching it from an ivory tower perspective. Understanding industry's point of view has made it much easier to communicate with industry members while at the same time transferring how university people wish to approach some of the problems. Both sides have much to gain from working together and much of my initial activity has been to foster communication between the two groups," said Boutin. He and his team will focus on understanding the relationships between industrial land use and the ecosystem so that collaborative activities can be identified and implemented to reduce the environmental impact. They will seek science-based solutions that will promote environmental and industrial sustainability in the province.

The research will create tools and models to better understand the impacts of

development and show how development practices can be altered to reduce these impacts and lower costs. It will also provide scientific input to promote policy alignment across government departments and conduct regional multiple resource use analysis that considers all resources sectors with ecosystem sustainability as a fundamental goal. This initiative is an integral part of the Alberta Chamber of Resources' new Integrated Landscape Management Program. For more information, contact Dr. Stan Boutin, UofA biological sciences professor, at (780) 492-1297.

Regional Strategies

Northern East Slopes Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management Strategy

The Regional Steering Group (RSG) met June 18 - 20 in Hinton to continue their planning process. The focus of the two-day session was on identifying outstanding issues within the region. A newsletter entitled *The NES Strategy – Planning for Sustainable Development* has been distributed to approx 450 individuals and organizations interested in the NES Strategy and provincial initiatives. The RSG is gearing up for public consultation in the fall with focus group sessions and informal involvement in community activities, to get to know the communities and their residents, scheduled in the interim. For more

information, contact David Weeks, Alberta Environment in Edson at (780) 723-8266 or by e-mail at david.weeks@gov.ab.ca

Regional Sustainable Development Strategy for the Athabasca Oil Sands Area

A variety of multi-party stakeholder technical workgroups are working diligently to complete interim management objectives by late 2001. The areas under discussion range from fishery and wildlife issues and water quality, through to effects of air pollutants on the environment. Work is proceeding generally as scheduled in the five-year implementation plan.

Issue 3 of *Sustainable Times*, a newsletter produced through a joint effort between Alberta Environment and the Cumulative Environmental Management Association (CEMA), is now available online at <http://www.gov.ab.ca/env/regions/neb/rsds>

It includes the announcement of Mr. Ken Weagle's appointment to the position of Executive Director, Wood Buffalo region of CEMA. CEMA has 43 member organizations including First Nations, industry, environmental non-government organizations, and all levels of government including the local Municipality of Wood Buffalo. Check out CEMA's new website at www.cema-wbr.org

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IRM Lingo

Integrated Land Management

Resource use is coordinated in such a manner as to create the smallest and softest human footprint on the land base while creating economic efficiencies and cost savings to industry partners. It is based on the premise that activities are interrelated and recognizes that to maintain functioning ecosystems, user coordination on a landscape level is required.

Alberta Chamber of Resources

IRM History

In December 1999, a provincial workshop entitled *Ideas on Integration – Building a framework for Regional Strategies in Sustainable Resource and Environmental Management* was held in Edmonton with 48 participants (15 from the provincial government, six from other levels of government, 14 from industry, eight from non-governmental organization and five with academic interest).

Name the Newsletter Contest Winners

Congratulations to **Jason Proche**, and **Sherra Quintilio** our winners from the Name the Newsletter Contest. Jason's entry "Connections" and Sherra's entry "The IRM Connection" were selected from the 27 suggestions received. Both of our winners referred to the fact that IRM recognizes that everything is connected to everything else and that the use of a resource for one purpose can affect the use of that resource for other purposes. In making their selection, the Editorial Board determined that Jason and Sherra's entries reflected information sharing and thoughtful discussion of IRM, were succinct and catchy, captured the full breadth of IRM, and would be easily understood and meaningful to the full readership of the newsletter. Thanks to all of you who participated in the contest. We hope you enjoyed it as much as the judging panel did.



Sherra Quintilio receives her prize (a denim shirt with the IRM logo on it) from Editorial Board Chair John Shires. Jason's prize was delivered by mail.

Editorial Board

We welcome your ideas in shaping the future of the newsletter. Please contact any of the Editorial Board members to make comments or suggestions. You can call toll-free by dialing 310-0000 and then entering the number.

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